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twenty-one and the year before this given to this social service. This should be divided into three courses: first, a course in national and domestic economics; second, a theoretic course in hygiene; and third, a theoretic course in the physical and psychical duties of a mother before and after the birth of the child. These courses should be supplemented by practical training in the care of children. This thorough education, if it be added to a real awakening to the beauty of motherhood, will bring about the renaissance and secure for woman her highest development.

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*Unifying Rural Social Interests.* Edited by HENRY ISRAEL. Association Press, 1914. 12mo. Pp. 122.

This volume is the product of the papers and discussions which were presented at the fourth annual session of the Country Church Conference which was held in November, 1913. It includes an introduction by Albert E. Roberts; two papers by Thomas N. Carver, one entitled "The Department of Agriculture and Country Life," the other, "The United States Rural Organization Service"; a paper by A. C. Monahan on "The Point of Emphasis in the New Rural School Idea"; a paper by G. Walter Fiske, "The Country Church and the Young Men's Christian Association"; and one by Kenyon L. Butterfield, "The Place of the Young Men's Christian Association in the New Rural Awakening." Each principal paper is followed by discussions from other members of the conference who were present.

A perusal of the book elicits the fact that there is little divergence of opinion on the part of the participants relative to the topics discussed. The introduction indicates that this is a decided departure or development, in view of the strong divergencies of the first convention. Could this seeming unity be transferred to the actual country, much of the chaos and disorganization which were alluded to as characterizing country life would be removed.

Since the object of the conference is to produce a unified opinion about rural affairs, as well as to promote interest and light, it may be said that these discussions strike agreement on at least three points. First, the Department of Agriculture of the nation has undergone a transformation of view relative to its functions, supplementing its historic work of improvement of agricultural processes by that of promoting rural community life in all its essential activities. Second, rural

education is to be rendered efficient by providing better teachers, better superintendence, and perhaps above all by the adoption of a better plan of organization. Third, the county Y.M.C.A. is to act in specific directions and perform tasks the churches do not, at least, perform, rather than seek to establish itself as a new and general religious institution; and to serve as a clearing-house for rural agencies and ideas of community welfare instead of seeking to make itself a competitive undertaking.

The volume represents a sane, constructive spirit. It will prove useful and instructive to lay readers generally who are interested in this field.

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*Le Problème mondial.* (Études de politique internationale.) By ALBERT TORRES. Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Nacional, 1913. Pp. xviii+212.

This small volume is a study of the problem whether war is necessary. "The first problem of our civilization is that of ascertaining whether our spirit has not attained that degree of development where physical conflict between nations ought to disappear; whether this abnormal process, residue of old passions and ancient prejudices, under the impulsive ascendancy of the crassest motives of primitive men and of the society of an inferior age, is not contrary to the adaptation of our nature to our physical and social environment" (p. 1).

The fact that the European war has broken out since the publication of this study does not detract from its importance or timeliness. The Balkan war was in progress at the time of its publication. But other events were also transpiring. The Balkan war was being held in bounds; new treaties of arbitration were formed. Among the world's statesmen whom the author names as exponents of peace are: Raymond Poincaré, Sir Edward Grey, William Taft, Woodrow Wilson, and the Emperor of Germany. "All the world does justice and renders homage to the peaceful sentiments of the Emperor of Germany and to the efforts employed by his majesty to assure peace in the world" (p. 17).

The thesis of Torres is, not that there will be no more wars, but that war is no longer necessary as a basis for the settlement of disputes between states or nations. In support of this contention he brings to bear a consideration of the progress of the human spirit since civilization began and especially the triumphs of peace continuously achieved since the close of the eighteenth century.